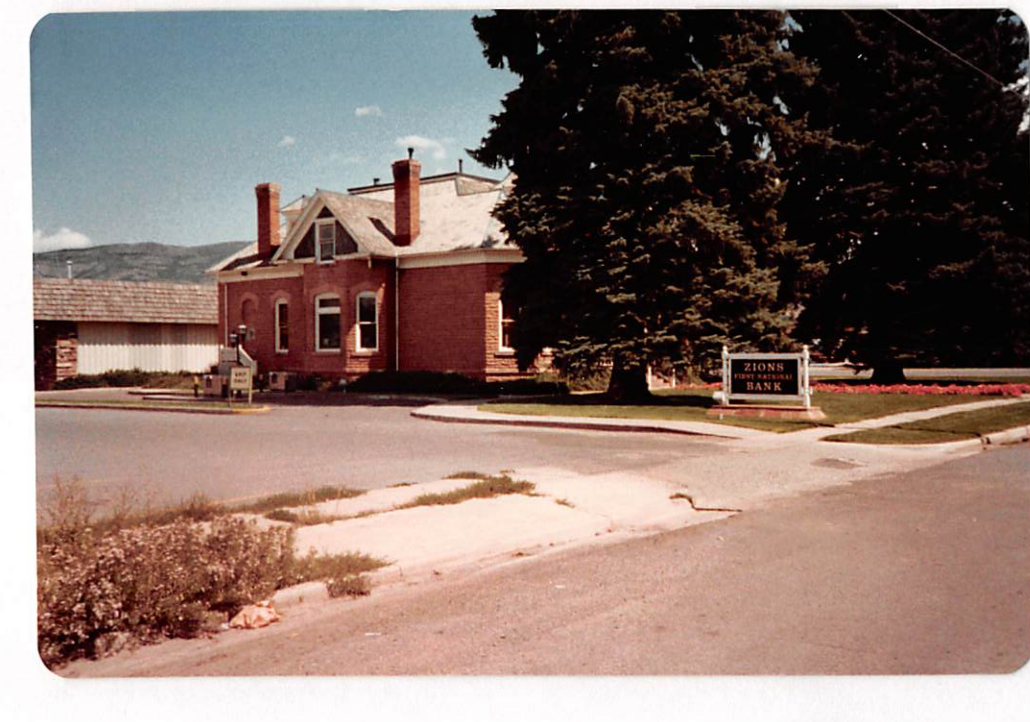
81 E Center







Zions First National to Remodel Hatch Home

Plans for restoring the old Abram Hatch house in Heber and using it as a Zions First National Bank office have been announced by Roy W. Simmons, President, and C. James Norton, Heber bank manager.

Purchase of the house and land ended speculation about the site's future. The house was recently designated by the Governor's Committee on Historical Sites for inclusion in the State's Historical Register. The purchase was hailed by Zions Bank officials and preservationists alike as the only practical means of saving the home from ruin or destruction.

THE BLOCK ON WHICH the Hatch house stands has been under study for some time as a site for a new shopping center for Heber Valley. Zions Bank officials contracted with shopping center developers for a spot in the center mall area for a bank office and the site allotted them was the one on which the Hatch home stands.

Bank officials were reluctant to demolish the house, however, and with the developers offered the structure free to anyone who wished to move it to another site. Zions Bank even offered to finance the cost of the move. This plan failed when a prospective mover found that the house weighs 250 tons — well over the moveable weight. Two alternatives then remained: demolish the home in favor of a modern building, or remodel it for bank use. After careful study bank personnel concluded they would restore and remodel the structure.

ASIDE FROM ITS SPLENdid nineteenth century architecture, the Abram Hatch home is a landmark in Heber Valley. Its builder, Abram Hatch, was a prominent early resident. He was one of the first bishops of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Heber, and was the one who first brought trade and industry to the valley.

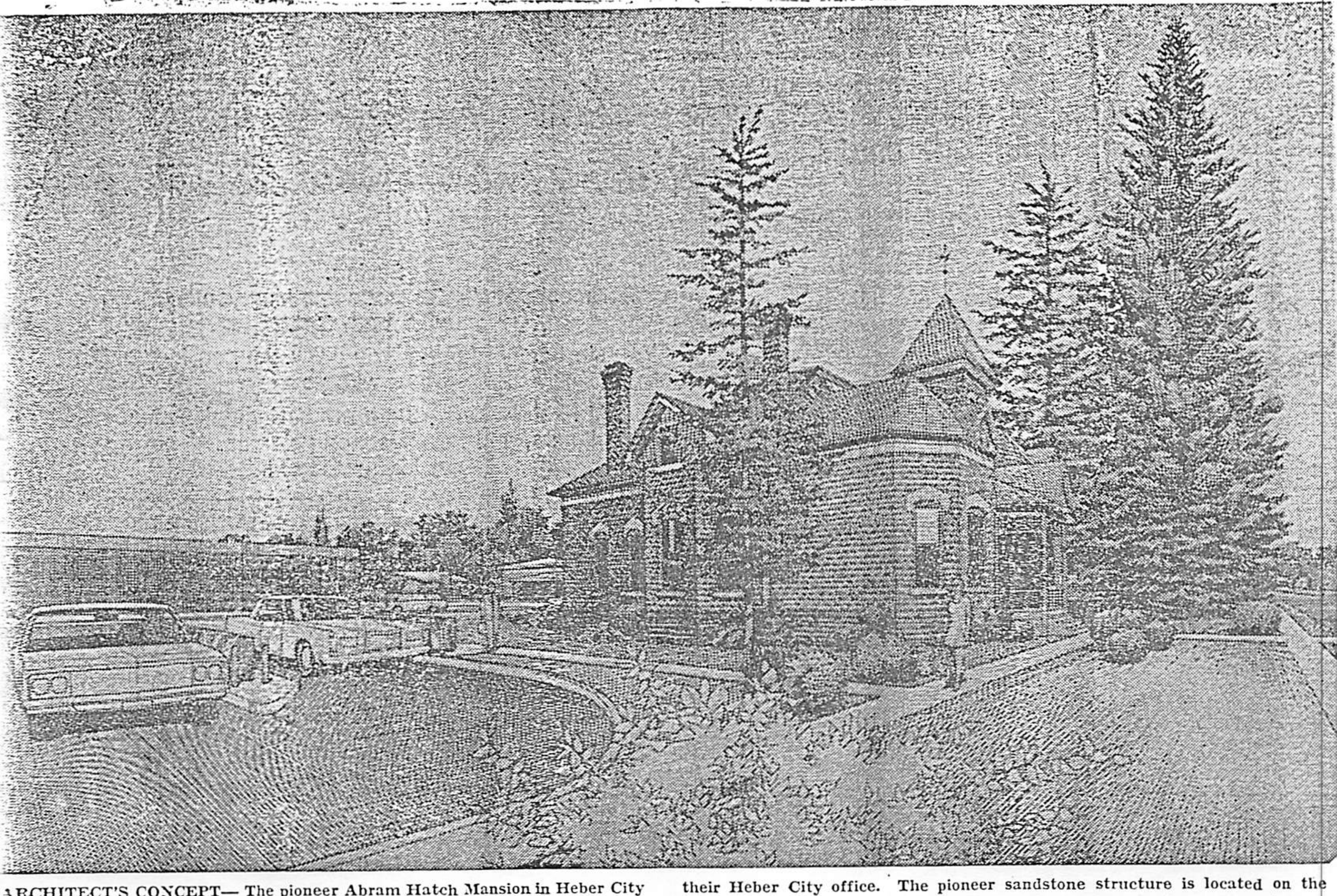
One of his enterprises, A. Hatch & Co., served as the valley's first "bank", as well as being a general store and the town's commercial focal point for many years. Mr. Hatch used to accept money and valuables of local citizens for protection in the store's safe over periods of time. The business, incidentally, stil survives today and is known informally as the "Heber Exchange".

MR. HATCH BUILT THE home on the corner of Center Street and First East in about 1892, using the best masonry and woodworking methods then available in Heber. Cost of building another house exactly like it today has been estimated in excess of $250,000.

After the death of Mr. Hatch's widow, the house passed from one owner to another, and at one point was converted to apartments. Eventually the exterior fell into disrepair, the basic structure and interior of the house if well preserved.

In renovating the house for use as a bank, Zions First National officials have indicated they will try wherever possible to maintain the original beauty and workmanship, even down to woodwork details inside. When completed the house will continue to be a point of historical interest as well as a banking office for Heber Valley residents.

THE IDEA OF RENOVATing the house is somewhat unique in banking circles, running counter to most present-day trends for modern-looking buildings as bank offices. However, bank personnel say that using the old home rather than a new building will not affect the speed and efficiency of their banking operations. They are happy, they say, to be able to contribute to the preservation of a historical landmark.



ARCHITECT'S CONCEPT— The pioneer Abram Hatch Mansion in Heber City has been purchased by Zions First National Bank and will be renovated into their Heber City office. The pioneer sandstone structure is located on the East Corner of First East Center and will be a part of new shopping complex.